

BOOK BURNING AND CENSORSHIP AT U.C.

The UC Administration is guilty of book-burning and suppression of academic freedom. As a pawn of Agribusiness it has destroyed and altered faculty research.

In the past few weeks the FSM has turned the spotlight of publicity upon Clark Kerr's domain. Slowly a few pieces of a gigantic puzzle have come to public attention. . . the suggestion of a picture of suppression of ideas on a massive scale. Not only are students denied the right to think and speak and act. Faculty members also must spew the party line in support of the status quo or face academic oblivion. As a start in putting together the complete story of this systematic destruction of the very purpose of the university in a "free" society, we call upon the academic senate of the faculty to investigate the following two incidents.

The Missing 17 Pages

Last fall the Division of Agricultural Sciences of UC made public its report on the impact of the termination of the bracero program--under which low-paid foreign labor has been imported to work on California farms. It stated that the current farm wages are too low to attract domestic workers; asserted, without documentation, that such workers are, in any case, unwilling to do the work done by braceros; and held that it would be impossible for the California farm interests to pay better wages because they cannot pass on wage increases to the consumer in the form of higher prices. (None of these academic servants of agribusiness would suggest, of course, that the money for better wages be taken out of the inflated profits of the farm corporations.) The report . . . concluded that some program of importing cheap foreign labor must be maintained after the bracero law ended December 31.

A short time later, Thomas L. Pitts, President of the State AFL-CIO, revealed that the report had been "doctored" before publication to meet the needs of the growers. A full 17 pages had been deleted. The missing pages agreed with a similar study done by UCLA's Institute of Industrial Relations that: (1) the proposal for importing Mexicans under PL 414 (the immigration act) "is likely to reduce the incentives for the growers to develop and participate in programs to increase the employment of domestic workers"; (2) non-farm workers would do bracer work if wages and working conditions were improved and if such work were covered by unemployment insurance; and (3) young unemployed people could provide an important domestic source of farm labor.

WHY WAS THIS SECTION REMOVED FROM THE BERKELEY REPORT?

Because the findings contradicted the forecasts of disaster manufactured by the representatives of the giant agricultural corporations. These influential men of agribusiness reap bountiful profits by use of impoverished Mexican labor at below subsistence wages and inhuman working conditions. The termination of the bracero program meant that the robber barons of agriculture would have to pay decent wages to lure American workers to their fields.

Pat Brown--Friend of Agricultural Labor

Ironically, the four-year phase-out of the bracero program, offered as a compromise solution by Governor Brown, came directly out of one of the alternatives suggested in the deleted 17 pages of the report. It seems clear that Brown and his

appointed head of the State Board of Abiculture, Jesse Tapp (who is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank of America and a UC Regent) had both seen the report, with the 17 pages still included, before it was made "academically pure."

Was it perhaps pro-agribusiness Jesse Tapp, or Governor Brown himself, who gave the order for deletion? If so, are these two Regents qualified to determine standards of free speech for students?

Experiment in Bookburning, Clark Kerr Style

The 1964 Berkeley report was not the first victim of UC-agribusiness censorship. In 1960 Henry Anderson, a researcher employed by the university to study health conditions of braceros, produced a 750 page study called "Harvest of Loneliness." Reviewed by a University Committee, the book was ordered confiscated and destroyed.

To understand this incident we must go back to May 1958. Anderson had been in the field on his research project a year and a half. The American Friends Service Committee asked him to write a statement of personal opinion on the bracero program. The statement, which criticized the program, fell into the hands of the California Department of Labor and the Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Labor. When Anderson refused to retract his criticisms, these public officials turned for aid to the Farm Bureau Federation, the powerful growers' organization. The Federation put pressure on the University Administration--and Clark Kerr, the advocate of the "open forum", ordered Anderson's project terminated. Two years later Anderson finished the draft of his terminal report, had 100 copies mimeographed and sent to people around the country for criticism. THE LIBERAL UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION ORDERED THE RECALL AND DESTRUCTION OF THE DRAFT COPIES.

Who Runs the University of California?

Clearly the King-of-the-Hill on the UC campus is powerful Agribusiness. And his loyal servants, the Division of Agricultural Sciences and the University Administration, are prepared not only to propagandize for him, but to sacrifice the academic integrity and freedom of the faculty.

For two months students have been fighting for Free Speech. When will the faculty be ready to stand up for its own rights? WHERE IS THE FACULTY HIDING?

WE CALL FOR AN ACADEMIC SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THESE TWO VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM.

WE ASK THAT THE ACADEMIC SENATE SEEK OUT OTHER SUCH INSTANCES.

WE ASK THAT THE ACADEMIC SENATE REASSERT ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF DEFENDER OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND SEEK TO REMOVE THE UNIVERSITY OUT FROM UNDER THE THUMB OF KING AGRIBUSINESS.

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